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USDA Forest Service Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests 2250 South Main Street Delta, CO 81416 Date: May 28, 2021 Contact(s): John Slown, 406-493-4196 or john.slown@usda.gov NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO OBJECT Enlargement of Monument Reservoir No. 1 Project USDA Forest Service Mesa County, Colorado Chad Stewart, Forest Supervisor of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests (GMUG), has released a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Enlargement of Monument Reservoir No. 1 Project and his draft Record of Decision (ROD) which is summarized here. Based upon review of the analysis presented in the FEIS, Stewart has decided to implement the Proposed Action by issuing a Special Use Permit to authorize the construction, operation and maintenance of an enlargement of Monument Reservoir No. 1. His decision includes the mitigation actions described in the FEIS Proposed Action, Design Criteria requirements (FEIS, Appendix C), and compensatory wetland mitigation, a draft plan of which is included as Appendix E of the FEIS, and any mitigation the Forest Service determines is appropriate to include in the Special Use Permit which is recommended in the Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Plan (FWMP) Ute Water is currently preparing. Monument Reservoir No. 1 would be enlarged to 5,268 acre-feet. This reservoir is located on the north side of the Grand Mesa, on Monument Creek (T11S, R93W, sections 11 and 12, 6th PM), approximately 43 air miles east of Grand Junction). Water stored at the enlarged reservoir will enter Ute Water's existing delivery infrastructure and meet anticipated shortfalls during times of drought. The project construction phase will last three to five years and the project maintenance period will run through 2045. The action will also authorize associated wetland restoration projects at Monument Reservoir No. 2 and Cold Sore (a.k.a. Jensen) Reservoir. These projects serve as compensatory mitigation for impacts to wetlands at the Monument Reservoir No. 1 enlargement site. In addition to wetland restoration to provide wetland impact compensatory mitigation as required by the Army Corps of Engineers, the project includes impact mitigation through use of design criteria and best management practices for construction, as detailed in Appendix C of the FEIS and mitigation described in the FEIS Proposed Action. Stewart's decision also authorizes relocation of the National Forest System Trail 518, and the Sunlight-Powderhorn Snowmobile Trail, as well as construction-phase improvements to National Forest System Road 262. The entire FEIS and draft ROD are available for review online at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=9127> This decision is subject to objection pursuant to 36 CFR Part 218, subparts A and B. Those wishing to object must follow the objection requirements and timing requirements articulated below. Due to Covid-19 restrictions and limited office occupancy, objections, including attachments, must be in writing and filed (regular mail or electronically) with the Objection Reviewing Officer within 45 days following the date of publication of a legal notice announcing the Opportunity to Object in the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (36 CFR 218.8). The publication date of the legal notice in the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection (36 CFR 218.6). Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. Objections will be accepted from those who have previously submitted specific written comments during a previous designated opportunity for public comment (36 CFR 218.5(a)) such as scoping periods in May and November 2005, Draft EIS in June-September 2007, and SDEIS in June 2017. Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity and attributed to the objector, unless the issue is based on new information that arose after the previous opportunities to comment (36 CFR 218.8(c)). Objections must meet the objection content requirements specified in 36 CFR 218.8(d). Objections and attachments may be submitted online at: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=9127> Written objections may also be submitted via U.S. Postal Service to: USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region Attn: Reviewing Officer P.O. Box 18980 Golden, CO 80402 If no objection is received, implementation of the decision may begin on, but not before, the fifth business day following the close of the objection filing period (36 CFR 218.12(c) (2)). If an objection is received, implementation may occur immediately following the close of the objection resolution period (36 CFR 218.12(a)) once the Record of Decision has been signed. Per 36 CFR 218.26(b), the reviewing officer must issue a written response to the objector(s) concerning their objection(s) within 45 days following the end of the objection filing period. The reviewing officer has the discretion to extend the time for up to 30 days. Due to projected workloads at the Rocky Mountain Region Office, if an objection is received, the Reviewing Officer has determined the objection resolution period will be extended for 30 days for this project per 36 CFR 218.26. This project is estimated to be implemented beginning in the late summer of 2021 or as funding becomes available. For additional information concerning this decision or the Forest Service objection process, contact John Slown at 406-493-4196 or john.slown@usda.gov . The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Published: May 28, 2021.

